

### REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending and stand rejected by the examiner. Claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 are independent claims.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 to more clearly point out what applicants regard as their invention. The claims, as amended, avoid the use of indefinite language and are clearly enabled. No new matter has been added. For example, manipulation of a linked list and its associated pointers are known to one skilled in this art and described with applicants' specification as originally filed with reference to FIG. 2. Accordingly, claim 1, 9, 17 and 25 are proper under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

The examiner uses Cheriton to reject claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 17, 18, 25 and 26 as having been anticipated.

Claims 1, 9, 17 and 25, as amended, recite "storing addresses in a first queue entry as a circular linked list wherein the first entry points to a subsequent entry and to a final entry, each of the stored addresses referring to a stored data buffer and including a cell count that indicates a number of cells contained in the data buffer," or similar language. Cheriton neither describes nor suggests at least this quoted claims feature.

Cheriton discloses a credit field that is incremented or decremented after a comparison with the number of cells in a packet. More specifically, Cheriton discloses:

According to one embodiment of the present invention, each flow entry (or bucket) comprises at least a credit field having a certain value. When a packet arrives, the credit value is tested against zero. If credits remain, the credit value is tested against the number of cells in the packet. The packet is dropped if there are not enough credits in the bucket. Specifically, if the result of a decrement of the credit value by the size of the packet (in cells) is a negative value, the packet is ignored and not enqueued; the credit value is set to zero. Otherwise, the credit value is decremented by the number of cells and processing of the packet proceeds according to conventional methods. (Col. 6, lines 14-26)

Accordingly, claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 are not anticipated by Cheriton.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or

Applicant : Gilbert Wolrich et al.  
Serial No. : 10/020,815  
Filed : December 12, 2001  
Page : 9 of 9

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559-614001 / P12853

concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

October 25, 2004

Kenneth F. Kozik

Kenneth F. Kozik  
Reg. No. 36,572

Fish & Richardson P.C.  
225 Franklin Street  
Boston, MA 02110-2804  
Telephone: (617) 542-5070  
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906